

December 1, 1972

MINE INSPECTION REPORT
JACKPILE-PAGUATE OPEN-PIT MINES
UNITED PUEBLO AGENCY
LAGUNA PUEBLO RESERVATION
VALENCIA COUNTY, NEW MEXICO

LAGUNA PUEBLO
TRIBAL LEASES
Nos. 1,4,5,6, 7

by
Philip B. Mudgett
Mining Engineer

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
BRANCH OF MINING OPERATIONS
CONSERVATION DIVISION

Confidential Claim Retracted

Authorized by: SC

Date: 6/26/13

The Anaconda Company's Jackpile-Paguate open-pit mines were inspected On November 16, 1972, in the company of Ernest A. Lucero, Mine Superintendent, and Edward T. Sandell of the Carlsbad office. The two adjacent mines are located on the Laguna Indian Reservation about 8.5 miles north of the Laguna Pueblo. They were last inspected by an engineer from this office on March 30, 1972.

The mines were being operated two 8-hour production shifts and one 8-hour maintenance shift per day, 6 days a week with 328 employees. However, starting on October 30th all work in the pits was halted for 3 days by rain and a 20-inch snowfall. The resulting pools of water in pit floor depressions were pumped in relays through temporary gathering lines to the central collecting pond located between the two pits. Under dry conditions, water from the pond is sprayed on the haulage roads to allay dust and to avoid pond overflow.

Ore production was being maintained at a level providing for a mill feed of about 2,400 tons per day averaging 0.31 percent of U_3O_8 per ton. Although most of the ore was being produced from the Paguate pit, about 20 percent of it was coming from the western extension of the Jackpile pit. A relatively small quantity of ore averaging about 0.50 percent U_3O_8 per ton was also being produced from the second small underground operation near the primary crusher.

Stripping of the isolated ore body on lease No. 4 was proceeding somewhat ahead of schedule with ore production in paying quantities



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anticipated well in advance of the expiration date of July 31, 1973, for the primary term of the lease. The haulage ramp for this work has been connected to the southern extension of the Paguate pit where stripping of the overburden on lease No. 4 was also proceeding at a satisfactory rate.

Completion of underground operations with the Alpine Miner from the second small ore body near the primary crusher is expected in about two months. At that time, work will be commenced to mine out several small but highgrade ore deposits located about 3,000 feet southwest of the crushing plant. The proposed mining plan for this small underground operation provides for development of the deposits through a 450-foot long adit and extraction by both longwall stoping with the Alpine Miner and sublevel stoping with conventional mining equipment.

Reclamation activities included terracing and leveling of the north waste dump. Experimental revegetation was being conducted on a 3 acre plot on top of the dump with some indication of success.

Health and safety conditions at the mines were reported by the U. S. Bureau of Mines on June 7, 1972, to be generally satisfactory. Those at the Bluewater Mill were reported by the Bureau on August 14, 1972, as also being satisfactory.

Philip B. Mudgett
Mining Engineer

Orig. to: Supt., United Pueblos, Albuquerque
: Comm., Office of Indian Affairs
: Chief, Branch of Mining Operations